

NIKON SAYS U-2 TRIAL WON'T HURT PRESTIGE OF U.S.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17 (AP) — Vice President Richard M. Nixon said yesterday it would be a "terrible and devastating reflection on Soviet justice" if the trial of U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers were turned into an indictment of United States policies.

Nixon, the Republican presidential candidate, said he didn't think the trial, which began today in Moscow, would harm United States prestige abroad.

"All peoples of the free world and sophisticated people in Iron Curtain countries are aware of the fact that the United States was only trying to protect itself against surprise attack," he told reporters.

Nixon said in the United States and other Western countries a man is tried for his individual actions. Russia is simply pointing up the criticism of its justice if it is more concerned about the trial's international repercussions, he added.

"It is not real justice as we know it," he said.